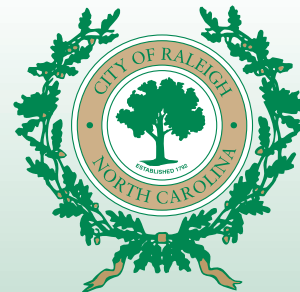


# Stimulate Us

Volume 1

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## Raleigh Wins Competitive Grant Money

Since the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) passed in February 2009 the City of Raleigh has received over \$27.5 million in federal funding.

A large portion of this funding came from non-competitive grants awarded based on ARRA criteria, but over \$5.2 million came in the form of competitive grants won by the City.

While each of these grants applications required significant input from City staff to complete, the City worked with Dr. Bill Carruthers and his team of grant writers at GrantProse, Inc (www.grantproseinc.com) on three of the winning proposals.

"In less than a year, GrantProse has helped the City to successfully secure almost \$2.5 million in funding," said Dr. Carruthers.

The City of Raleigh was awarded over a quarter million dollars in funding to hire 14 Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) members and a supervisor for one year.

The VISTA members are working in five different City departments: the City Manager's Office, Community Services, Information Technology, Administrative Services and Public Utilities.

"VISTA members have been working very hard to fight poverty through education, technology implementation, outreach and structural improvements," said Lauren Lewis, the VISTA Project Coordinator (Lauren.lewis@raleighnc.gov; 996-5721).

"We hope that our new projects and fresh approaches will engage citizens, lay a foundation for building an active community, and increase recognition for the AmeriCorps VISTA program," said Lewis.

*(Continues on page 2)*

## Capital Area Transit Builds New Facilities

On October 29, 2009, Raleigh broke ground on the new Capital Area Transit (CAT) Maintenance and Operations Facility, located southeast of the I-440 beltline at 4104 Poole Road.

Raleigh's state-of-the-art CAT facility will be an essential part of Wake County's transportation system. It will replace the three-decade-old facility that was built to house up to 50 buses.

Currently, the old facility maintains a total of 85 buses and support vehicles. With Raleigh's growing population and CAT's increasing number of riders, the new maintenance facility could not be built at a better time.

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*Mayor Charles Meeker speaks at the ground breaking ceremony of the CAT Maintenance & Operations Facility on October 20, 2009.*

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**“We hope that our new projects and fresh approaches will engage citizens, lay a foundation for building an active community, and increase recognition for the AmeriCorps VISTA program.”**

**600 jobs estimated for creation in the next year.**

## Raleigh Wins Competitive Grant Money

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Since starting in August, the VISTA members have contributed almost 8,500 hours of service to the Raleigh community.

VSITA workers are dedicated to work on “projects that will not only be sustainable, but will produce tangible outcomes that will enhance the standard of living for citizens of Raleigh,” said Lewis.

Dr. Carruthers’ team was also active in winning a \$1.3 million dollar grant for geothermal technologies at the Wilders Grove Solid Waste Service Center facility located off of New Bern Avenue.

This grant will allow the City to take advantage of the relatively stable earth temperature below the ground surface to provide heating, air conditioning and hot water for the facility, promoting energy conservation.

In addition to these two awards, the City enlisted Dr. Carruthers’ assistance in preparing the application for an Energy Assurance Planning grant. Jay Mercer, the City’s Emergency Manager, was notified on February 22 that the City was awarded \$200,000 for this project.

A fourth grant application was completed in December for a jobs training program in association with the Raleigh Business and Technology Center. Winning this award would bring an additional \$200,000 in ARRA funding to the City.

The program would give local residents the training required to remediate environmentally hazardous lots in Raleigh. Award announcements for this program are still pending.

“Grant funding is most useful to implement innovative projects and to test new ideas, technologies and/or processes that would otherwise not be funded out of local resources,” said Dr. Carruthers.

The City is excited about the increased funding awarded through the ARRA funds and the additional projects we are doing to improve the lives of our citizens.

By Jessica Breazeale



## Capital Area Transit Builds New Facilities

(Continued from page 1)

“CAT will be able to service more buses and make additional enhancements to its fleet to better accommodate riders,” said Stacey Carless, TDM Coordinator ([stacey.carless@raleighnc.gov](mailto:stacey.carless@raleighnc.gov); 996-4036).

\$1.4 million in earmarks, \$723,000 from the Department of Transportation, \$1.3 million in formula funds, and \$11.6 million in ARRA funding have all contributed to the funding of the new CAT Maintenance and Operations Facility.

Along with Mayor Charles Meeker, Councilmen Russ Stephenson and James West attended the ground breaking ceremony. NCDOT representatives and staff from various congressional offices were also present.

Upon its completion in spring 2011, the new 23 acre facility will house and support between 125 to 150 buses. There will be a 27,400 square foot two-story building, a 56,000 square foot single-story bus maintenance facility, a small bus shelter on Poole Road, and a 75,000 square foot bus washing and fueling depot.

The project is currently 14 percent complete and expected to achieve a minimum LEED silver designation. Some of the construction on the new facility will be subcontracted. As of now, just over 28 percent of the projected subcontract work will be from local Minority and Women Owned Business and Enterprises.

With over 600 jobs estimated for creation during the next year, the new CAT facility will be essential not only to the development of the transportation system but to the unemployment population as well.

Carless said the new facility “will allow for better transportation service in Raleigh and the eastern region of the triangle. The additional space will also allow for more regional partnerships and service expansions.”

By Ja’Nell Henry

## Raleigh Builds a “Green” Economy

The recession has put a significant strain on new development and construction projects here in Raleigh and beyond.

Both new construction projects and renovations are under increased scrutiny from the public to adhere to environmentally sustainable practices.

However, the lack of knowledge of green building practices has made it difficult for some contractors and laborers to remain competitive in an already competitive industry.

In order to help contractors and laborers build new skills and remain competitive in the workforce, the City of Raleigh has created a new program through its Office of Sustainability—the Green Building Training Series.

This new program will provide training and certifications to builders, contractors, laborers from associated trades, inspectors and code enforcement staff in green building standards, weatherization and energy auditing.

“We plan to offer something for all the trades: mechanical, electrical, plumbing and building,” said Lynn Graham, Programs Manager (lynn.graham@raleighnc.gov; 996-4662).

Participants that complete the courses offered will be eligible to receive a recognized certification or accreditation. The Green Build Training series is also working to obtain continuing education credits for the various disciplines. Professional Instructors certified in green building standards will engage participants in a variety of courses over the next three years, covering a variety of topics.

The Office of Sustainability recently accepted proposals from potential instructors for the program. Over the next few weeks, staff members will review proposals and select qualified applicants for interviews with the help of two AmeriCorpsVISTA members. The first round of trainings is expected to begin in late Spring 2010.

The Green Builders and Community Education Program is one of 11 projects funded through the Department of Energy’s Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program.

Local governments are eligible for these funds through a formula grant process. Funds should be used to reduce fossil fuel emissions by methods that are environmentally sustainable, reduce total energy use of eligible entities and improve energy efficiency in the transportation, building and other sectors.

Additional EECBG funds were made available through the ARRA stimulus funds. Other projects funded through the City’s \$3.8 million block grant include:

- Weatherization Loan Program
- Residential & Commercial Energy Efficiency & Renewable Loan Program
- Climate Action Plan
- Government Buildings Energy Efficiency Performance Contracts
- Energy Management Software & Climate Control Systems
- Solid Waste Services Pilot for Enhanced Recycling
- Vehicle Conversion to Electric Battery Powered
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
- Solar Thermal Water Heating
- Government Buildings Lighting Efficiency Improvements

By Haley Rader

The Green Builders and Community Education Program is one of 11 projects funded through the Department of Energy’s Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program.

Topics to be covered may include:

- LEED Green Building Certification System
- Home Energy Rating System
- BPI-Building Performance Institute
- Green Plumbing
- Solar Thermal Energy
- Green Initiatives
- Solar Photovoltaic
- Green Cleaning Certification
- Sustainable Landscaping

*“We plan to offer something for all the trades. When clients finish the training, they will walk away with tangible skills that hopefully either help them retain a job or find a job.”*

*Lynn Graham*



The City of Raleigh expresses the sincerest appreciation for your ongoing support at the federal level for legislation and funding to aid our local citizens. The City of Raleigh is deeply grateful for your support and generosity.

**Senator Kay Hagan**  
U.S. State Senate  
Washington, DC

**Representative Bob Ethridge**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

**Representative Brad Miller**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

**Representative David Price**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

## More information on Raleigh's Recovery

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## Raleigh Plans for Energy Assurance

On February 22, Raleigh was awarded \$200,000 in ARRA grant funding to develop a Local Energy Assurance Plan (LEAP).

The LEAP grant, awarded to the Office of Emergency Management, will allow Raleigh to develop a standardized energy assurance plan it can rely on during energy emergencies and supply disruptions.

This plan will improve electricity reliability and energy security, ensuring the City can recover

and restore power quickly following an energy disruption.

Disruptions may be caused by unusually cold or hot weather, storms, power generation, or fuel supply disruptions. Other fuel shortages may result from flooding and labor strikes in the private sector.

The City's Emergency Manager, Jay Mercer (james.mercer@raleighnc.gov; 996-4657), will be working closely with the Public Utilities and Public Works departments to partner with the local energy providers. The LEAP will encompass all types of energy options, including traditional electric and natural gas along with renewable sources such as wind, water, and solar power.

Once developed, the plan will "lessen the devastating impact that incidents have on the local economy and the health and safety of citizens of Raleigh," said Mercer.

Energy assurance planning involves three areas: energy security, emergency preparedness, and critical infrastructure protection.

Assurance planning has become increasingly important in wake of national examples of energy disruptions. Hurricane Katrina and the Northeast blackout of 2003 demonstrated the need for this type of advanced planning.

By Jessica Breazeale

ARRA Funded Project *competitive grants	City Department	Amount
EECBG Program	Office of Sustainability	3,820,400
CD Block Grant—R	Community Development	648,148
Homelessness Prevention, Re-Housing	Community Development	991,091
Neighborhood Stabilization Fund*	Community Development	2,000,000
Raleigh Invests in People & Communities*	Community Services	249,270
Raleigh Invests in People & Communities Supervisor*	Community Services	22,000
Fire Station Rain Water Harvesting	Fire & Public Works	465,000
Neuse River Greenway	Parks & Recreation	3,250,000
Regional Wake County JAG Grant*	Police Department	1,500,000
NRWWTP Reuse Irrigation System	Public Utilities	1,251,388
CAT Bus Engine Upgrade	Public Works—Transit	80,000
CAT Maintenance & Operations Facility	Public Works—Transit	11,605,184
NC 50 Corridor Study	Public Works—Transit	200,000
Geothermal Technologies*	Solid Waste Services	1,298,625
Local Energy Assurance Planning*	Emergency Management	200,000
Total ARRA Funding		27,581,106